

# UNRWA Situation Report #133 on the situation in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem



All information from 29 August – 2 September 2024, is valid as of 2 September 2024 at 22:30 (local time)

Day 322-326 of Hostilities

Published 3 September 2024



UNRWA health staff gives the polio vaccine to a girl in Deir Al-Balah, middle area, Gaza Strip, 1 September 2024. © 2024 UNRWA Photo

## 1. Key points

### The Gaza Strip

- Ongoing strikes by Israeli Security Forces (ISF) continue, with aerial, land and maritime bombardments across the Gaza Strip, resulting in civilian casualties, displacement and the destruction of residential structures and public infrastructure.
- The UNRWA Commissioner-General posted on his [official 'X'](#) account that the first phase of the polio campaign kicked off on 1 September 2024. UNRWA, WHO and UNICEF are mobilising teams to reach over 600,000 children under the age of 10 across the Gaza Strip.
- Humanitarian pauses across specific areas of the Gaza Strip have enabled the first round of the emergency polio vaccination campaign. Between 1 - 2 September, nearly 159,000 children were reached, according to World Health Organization and the Health Cluster. The

Polio vaccination campaign will be done in phases, focusing on one zone at a time - starting in the middle area, shifting to the south, and finally to the northern governorates.

- According to the [Housing, Land and Property \(HLP\) Technical Working Group \(TWG\)](#), at least 370,000 housing units in Gaza have been damaged, including 79,000 destroyed completely. The cost of damage to critical infrastructure in Gaza is estimated at around US\$ 18.5 billion, 72 per cent of which is the cost of damage to the housing sector, 19 per cent to public services infrastructure, such as water, health and education, and 9 per cent to commercial and industrial buildings.
- According to the UN, at least 1.9 million people (or nine in ten people) across the Gaza Strip are internally displaced, including people who have been repeatedly displaced (some, up to 10 times or more).

Several challenges stand in the way of collecting much needed humanitarian supplies from the Karem Abu Salem (Kerem Shalom) crossing point in southern Gaza. These include deteriorating law and order, war and insecurity, damaged infrastructure, fuel shortages and access restrictions. According to OCHA, between 1 and 25 August 2024, an average of only 69 humanitarian trucks entered the Gaza Strip per day. This is well below the pre-crisis average of 500 trucks per working day. According to [WFP](#), it needs all crossings into Gaza to be fully operational to bring in sufficient aid. Although some border crossings in Gaza are partially operational, they function at limited capacity, restricting the amount of food entering and failing to meet the needs.

- The latest information on supplies entering Gaza can be accessed through the below link:

[Gaza Supplies and Dispatch Tracking | UNRWA](#)

- As of 2 September, the total number of UNRWA team members killed since 7 October is **213**.

## The West Bank, including East Jerusalem

*The West Bank, including East Jerusalem update is now once a week.*

- According to [OCHA](#), between 7 October 2023 and 26 August 2024, 622 Palestinians have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Separately, UNICEF confirmed that over 150 children have been killed in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, during the period, 7 October 2023 to 22 July 2024.
- The large-scale ISF operation which started on 27 August in the northern West Bank governorates of Jenin, Tubas, Tulkarm, and Qalqiliya continued through the reporting period. On 29 August, the ISF withdrew from Tulkarm and Tubas, and the focus of ISF activity became the Jenin refugee camp and city. In total, 29 Palestinians were killed and more than 50 were injured until 1 September. As of 1 September, Jenin Camp was under curfew, and residents were largely cut off from services including basic supplies such as food, medicine, and other essentials. Extensive damage, including destruction of property and bulldozing of roads, was reported across Jenin and the other impacted areas in the northern West Bank.

- Two attacks on Israeli settlements in the southern West Bank purportedly took place overnight on 30-31 August, which included live fire and car bombs deployed by Palestinian assailants who were later shot dead by the ISF. At least four Israelis, among them ISF and settlement security, were reported injured. On 1 September, three Israeli Border Police personnel were killed when an armed Palestinian opened fire at them from a vehicle at Tarqumiya checkpoint south of Hebron. The Palestinian assailant was killed in a subsequent ISF operation, which also saw movement in Hebron and Bethlehem governorates highly restricted.

## 2. Overall situation

### The Gaza Strip

- According to the [Ministry of Health](#) in Gaza, and as reported by OCHA, between 7 October 2023 and 2 September 2024, at least 40,786 Palestinians were reported killed and 94,224 injured.

## 3. Humanitarian access & protection of civilians

- UNRWA is working to verify the details of incidents that reportedly impact UNRWA premises. Further information will be provided once it becomes available.
- During the reporting period, one incident impacting UNRWA installations and internally displaced people (IDPs) sheltering there were reported. The verification of details and casualty figures are ongoing.
- On 1 September 2024, an UNRWA Distribution Center in Gaza City reportedly sustained minor damage due to an ISF strike hitting a nearby building in Gaza City. No injuries were reported.
- **464\*** incidents impacting UNRWA premises and the people inside them have been reported since the beginning of the war (some with multiple incidents impacting the same location), including at least **74\*** incidents of military use and/or interference at UNRWA premises. **190\*** Agency installations have been impacted by munitions or subjected to armed actor interference through these incidents. UNRWA estimates that, in total, at least **563\*** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA installations have been killed and at least **1,790\*** injured since the start of the war. UNRWA is verifying the number of casualties caused by these incidents.

*\*Since the start of the war, the latest figures are continuously under review as UNRWA gains access to locations that were previously inaccessible and as further verifications occur. Total summary figures will be published as information becomes known, noting that these numbers are subject to change once verifications are conducted.*

## UNRWA Response

### The Gaza Strip

#### Health

- UNRWA, as part of the national polio campaign, has provided health training to 184 practical nurses, 189 registrars, 972 social mobilizers and 96 permanent staff. In addition, disseminating health messages about the vaccines has started at health facilities and medical points.
- As of 27 August, 81 medical points and 10 (out of 27<sup>1</sup>) UNRWA health centres were operational. The health facilities provide primary health care, including outpatient services, non-communicable disease care, medications, vaccinations, antenatal and postnatal health care and dressings for the injured. The number of operational health facilities fluctuates constantly based on demand, access and security.
- On 27 August, almost 1,100 UNRWA health staff continued to work in health centres and medical points across the Gaza Strip, providing 13,814 medical consultations on that day.
- On 27 August, UNRWA provided mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) services in the Middle and Khan Younis areas with teams of psychiatrists and supervisors to assist special cases referred from health centres and shelters. UNRWA teams responded to 593 cases in health centres and at medical points through individual consultations, awareness sessions and to address cases of gender-based violence (GBV).
- On 27 August, medical teams provided medical care for 370 post-natal and pregnant women at high risk.
- According to the Health Cluster, UNRWA remains one of the largest health actors operating in the Gaza Strip, contributing to over half of the people reached with health services since 7 October 2023. Between 7 October 2023 and 18 August 2024, UNRWA provided over 5.2 million medical consultations across the Gaza Strip. In addition, the Agency (in partnership with and support from other UN agencies, including UNICEF and WHO) continues to provide vaccines, with over 130,000 children vaccinated against different childhood diseases since the start of 2024 through mid-July.

#### Psychosocial support (PSS)

- With the support of over 500 counsellors, UNRWA continues to provide lifesaving psychosocial support (PSS) services in Gaza, including psychosocial first aid, individual and group counselling, fatigue management sessions, recreational activities, Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) and protection cash assistance, reaching children, youth and adults.
- More than 600,000 children have been out of school since the beginning of the war. On 1 August 2024, UNRWA began to roll out its first phase response of back to learning with a focus

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<sup>1</sup> Pre-conflict, UNRWA had 22 health centres. Following the onset of the conflict, an additional five temporary health centres were established.

on mental health activities. This is taking place in up to 45 UNRWA schools now turned shelters<sup>2</sup> by expanding ongoing psychosocial support activities, focusing on arts, music and sports and raising awareness on the risks of explosive ordnance. UNRWA remains the largest provider of Education in Emergencies across the Gaza Strip. Prior to its first phase response across 45 UNRWA schools, a specialized training was held from 29 to 31 July to help teachers in Gaza cope with stress and enhance their capacity to provide activities to children. The training involved 998 teachers from all areas and equipped them with self-care skills, psychosocial support techniques, and knowledge on preventing harm caused by the remnants of war. The training was conducted by counsellors and assistant counsellors and supervised by mental health specialists.

- Since the onset of the conflict, around 700,000 IDPs, including over 450,000 children, have benefited from a total of 246,188 PSS sessions/activities. Between 6 and 18 August, a total of 14,816 IDPs, including 9,713 children benefited from these services. During the same period UNRWA counsellors provided 404 individual consultations and 168 group awareness sessions for caregivers. Additionally, UNRWA extended 453 recreational activities for children and 368 explosive ordnance risk education (EORE) sessions for adults and children.
- Since the onset of the conflict, UNRWA's social work team has provided services to 163,612<sup>3</sup> IDPs, including psychological first aid, PSS, family and individual interventions, as well as case management. These efforts aim to address family issues and strengthen relationships. Furthermore, protection services were provided to 1,353 GBV survivors and 2,101 children, including 1,130 unaccompanied children, covering reunification, safe sheltering, medication, dignity kits and non-food items through referrals. The team also supported 18,330 persons with disabilities with PSS; 7,445 of these individuals received assistive devices and rehabilitation services. Awareness sessions on GBV, child protection, disability and special needs, and managing social and psychological stressors were conducted for 109,655 IDPs.

### Food security

- To date, a total of 380,236 families (nearly 1.9 million people) have been reached with two rounds of flour; 353,354 of those families have received three rounds.
- UNRWA continues to distribute food parcels in the southern governorates. These include<sup>4</sup> flour, rice, chickpeas, lentils, cheese, hummus and fish, and are designed to cover approximately 90 per cent of daily calorific needs per quarter. To date, nearly 1.15 million people have been reached, of whom, nearly 215,000 people have received two rounds of food parcels since the war started.
- In addition to the distribution of UNRWA food parcels, the Agency distributes food parcels on behalf of other UN organizations, reaching around 1.4 million people.

### Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

- Since October 2023, UNRWA has provided emergency WASH activities across the Gaza Strip. Main activities include the operation and continued maintenance of water wells, desalination

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<sup>2</sup>Initially reaching 45 schools/shelters, back to learning will gradually expand to 94 schools in future phases.

<sup>3</sup> Results from 7 October – 1 September.

<sup>4</sup> Note the composition of the food parcel may change based on food item availability.

systems and the direct provision of water through water trucking and the distribution of bottled water. In addition, UNRWA continues to distribute hygiene kits and maintain hygiene in UNRWA shelters and sites through the provision of cleaning supplies, community based solid waste management, and pest control.

- UNRWA continues to be one of the largest WASH actors in the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of the war, the Agency has maintained and rehabilitated eight wells, reaching over 600,000 IDPs with access to water. Between June and August, UNRWA reached 50,000 IDPs with hygiene kits.
- Between 1-15 August, three water wells in Jabalia and Khan Younis were rehabilitated and made operational, and water was distributed across 101 emergency shelters, reaching nearly half a million people. In addition, UNRWA distributed chlorine tablets to over 110 shelters to prevent water contamination and improve water quality. Another 43,000 IDPs were reached with hygiene kits, including soap, in addition to 1,320 jerry cans and 432 buckets. Over 200,000 IDPs benefited from cleaning campaigns in different areas. Many more hygiene supplies are needed.
- Throughout the Gaza Strip, hundreds of thousands of tons of solid waste are piling up in streets, between tents in displaced tented areas, and next to the rubble in back alleys. The collapse of solid waste management since the war began is worsening the public health crisis. Between 1 and 22 August, a total of 7,000 tons of solid waste was collected by UNRWA and transferred to temporary dumping sites.

**Quote from Sam Rose, Senior Deputy Director of UNRWA Affairs in Gaza:**

**“I want to pay tribute to all the staff who have been involved in it [the polio vaccination campaign], all the health professionals working day and night to make the first date of the campaign off to a success.”**

**ENDs –**



## UNRWA situation and response to the escalation in the Gaza Strip

### IDPs in UNRWA installations

Confirmed IDP numbers, since 7 October 2023



**1,900,000\***  
IDPs\*\*



At least **563** IDPs sheltering in UNRWA premises have been killed and **1,790** injured since 7 October.

### UNRWA fatalities and damage to installations



213 UNRWA colleagues **killed**



**464**  
incidents



**190**  
UNRWA  
installations  
**damaged**

### UNRWA response – Food assistance



**c.215,000** families have received an UNRWA food parcel in middle areas and southern governorates at least once since 21 Nov.

### UNRWA response – Health



*Partial update on 27 August due to security and internet connectivity issues*

**Only 10** (out of 27) UNRWA health care centres operational.

**13,814** patients received healthcare in 10 (out of 27) UNRWA health care centres and UNRWA shelters.

### UNRWA response – Psychosocial support



Since the onset of the conflict over 450,000 children have benefited from 246,188 psychosocial and recreational activities.

Between 6 – 18 August a total of 9,713 children benefited from psychosocial and recreational activities.